(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan for a long-term perspective plan with Nepal for bilateral economic co-operation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An Indo-Nepal High Level Task Force has been set up, pursuant to a decision taken during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Nepal in February 1991, to prepare a comprehensive programme for bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries.

(d) The first meeting of the Task Force was held in Kathmandu on the 4th August 1991. The talks covered a wide range of bilateral economic issues between the two countries. The talks are still continuing, for which further meetings will be held.

Report of US congressional Research Service on Kashmir

5109. SHRI MUKUL BAL KRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent report by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the US on Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

On August 2, 1991 the Congressional Research Service (CRS) brought out a 23 page Report entitled "The Kashmir Dispute: Historical Background to the Current Struggle".

The CRS is a support agency of the US Congress. A part of the Library of Congress, the CRS works exclusively for the Congress, conducting research, analyzing legislation, and providing information at the request of Committees, Members, and their Staff. It is required to make such research available, without partisan bias, in form of Studies, Reports, Compilations and historical briefings. Upon request, the CRS assists committees in analyzing legislative proposals and issues, and in assessing the possible effects of these proposals and their alternatives.

This Report is an updated version of a memorandum prepared earlier in January 1991 for some members of the Congress. The Report, prepared at the request of Congressmen David Deier (Republican-California) and Vic Fazio (Democrat-California).

The Report purports to give a factual historical background of the so-called Kashmir problem from the Perspective of the authors. It also examines the current situation where there are references to arms coming in from Pakistan for use by extremists without, however, any condemnation of that country on this score. The Report attempts to document the genesis of the plebiscite question and concludes that today plebiscite would".....have more relevance

as a debating point for Pakistan or a point of departure for other self-determination proposals, than as an actual basis for a solution to the current crisis. Most press coverage of the Kashmir problem suggests that only a minority of the Kashmiri Muslims seek union with Pakistan, while the larger group of disaffected Kashmiris are demanding substantial autonomy or outright independence".

The Report also suggests that a possible solution to the Kashmir problem was "to give life and spirit to Article 370 of the Indian constitution, which is supposed to provide for a quasi-autonomous status but which in practice has been subverted to the point of meaninglessness".

India's position on the so-called Kashmir question is well-known; Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union and the only problem remaining is the vacation of territory presently occupied by Pakistan. The CRS Report contains views and judgements of its authors and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the US Government or the views of the Congress. The Report, of course, does not purport to reflect Government of India's position. Government will continue to make efforts towards conveying our stand on current developments in Kashmir to policy makers and legislators and other influential sections in the US, keeping in view the contents of this Reports.

Nodal Agency to Tackle Naxalism in the Country

5110. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a nodal agency to tackle the problem of naxalites in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). Ministry of Home Affairs will act as a nodal agency and assist the State Governments in organising measures for tacking the menace of left wing extremism.

[Translation]

Incidents of Terrorism and Kidnapping

5111. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of terrorism and kidnapping are increasing in the country; and

(b) whether the Government propose to launch a nation wide compaign with the cooperation of Central security forces and police force of all the States for checking these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) There have been incidents of terrorist violence including kidnapping in some parts of the country especially in Punjab, J & K, Assam and Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) The security agencies in the States concerned are taking appropriate action and the Central Government is extending all possible assistance as and when required.

[English]

Deaths in Police Lock up in Delhi

5112. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: